

-- 14. (New) The filter element as claimed in claim 13 wherein the tubular cylinder has a mean inside diameter greater than $1/20$ of a mean outside diameter of the tubular cylinder.

-- 15. (New) The filter element as claimed in claim 14 wherein the mean inside diameter is greater than $1/4$ the mean outside diameter.

C2
-- 16. (New) The filter element as claimed in claim 15 wherein the mean inside diameter is between $1/3$ and $1/2$ the mean outside diameter.

X
-- 17. (New) The filter element as claimed in any one of claims 13, 14, 15 or 16 wherein the mean inside diameter cylinder is greater than 25 mm.

-- 18. (New) The filter element as claimed in claim 13 wherein the tubular cylinder has an inside wall which is conical or cylindrical in shape and has a circular or polygonal cross-sectional shape.

-- 19. (New) The filter element as claimed in claim 13 wherein the filter element further comprises at least one polarizing positioning means.

-- 20. (New) The filter element as claimed in claim 13 wherein said absorbent paper material is a strip which is a continuous single sheet wound to provide the tubular cylinder.

-- 21. (New) The filter element as claimed in claim 13 wherein said absorbent paper material is comprised of a series of sheets which are interlaced to provide the

5418/USSN 09/744,946
Group Art Unit 1724

tubular cylinder.

-- 22. (New) The filter element as claimed in claim 13 or 20 wherein the sheet comprises several plies.

-- 23. (New) The filter element as claimed in claim 21 wherein each sheet of said series of sheets comprises several plies.

-- 24. (New) The filter element as claimed in claim 13, 20 or 21 wherein the ~~absorbent paper~~ material is cellulose cotton.

-- 25. (New) The filter element as claimed in claim 13 wherein the filter system is constructed and arranged to filter automotive engine oil. --

REMARKS

The captioned application is based on PCT International Application No. PCT/FR99/01904. The claims are being rewritten prior to examination to better conform the claims to U.S. claim practice.

Favorable consideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

YVES MALECOT ET AL

By

Mary J. Breiner
Mary J. Breiner, Attorney
Registration No. 33,161
115 North Henry Street
P.O. Box 19290
Alexandria, Virginia 22320-0290

Telephone: (703) 684-6885